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DR. NORTH'S MEDICAL REPORTS AT SARATOGA.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—Accompanying this, I forward you several extracts from my medical case book, kept here during the two past seasons. As there are large numbers of invalids here, during the season, from the northern and middle States, where your Journal extensively circulates, I supposed it might be interesting to your professional readers to hear further on the nature of the Saratoga waters, their adaptation to the removal of diseases, and the forms of the complaints that would most likely be benefited by their use. The more common forms of dyspepsia, bilious derangement, and other functional disorders of the alimentary canal, I have not noticed at all; as these difficulties are removed, almost as a matter of course, by the waters, and physicians would deem it a waste of time to peruse the details of the treatment. Should you insert the communication, I must beg forgiveness of you and your readers for its negligent dress. The language, particularly in describing the symptoms, is generally a mere transcript of the original entries made during the perplexities of our short but bustling season. In speaking of the Congress Spring, in the south part of the village, I have supposed most medical men to understand that this is THE Saratoga Spring, and the water the same as is usually found in our cities in bottles. The old Flat Rock and High Rock Springs are known as chalybeate springs. The Putnam, or New Congress, though an excellent and powerful water, has had no authentic analysis. Within 18 months a new and peculiar spring has been constructed, by the combination and curbing of two or three old fountains, in the north-east part of the village. It is called the Walton or Iodine Spring. This spring contains much less table salt and carbonate of lime than the Congress, and only about one fifth of the iron. Containing nearly an equal amount of carbonate of magnesia and precisely the same of hydriodate of soda as the Congress, and, at the same time, such redundant quantities of carbonic acid gas as to burst many bottles in which it is put up for market, and to render it extremely grateful and invigorating when drank at the fountain; we feel as if this spring is to prove an important acquisition both to the village and to the public by its adaptation to a peculiar class of diseases. This water is now to be had in bottles in various cities, and will soon be supplied, probably, very widely, as it is in the hands of an active company. This

is as it should be. Both the Congress and the Iodine waters ought to be on sale in every city and every village, of any size, from Maine to Louisiana. The analyses of these two springs are contained in a small work entitled "Saratoga Waters, or the Invalid at Saratoga," published by myself this spring. It is for sale by Spaulding & Storrs, Hartford, Ct., and by M. W. Dodd, New York, to whom booksellers and others are referred. Should you receive no copy from Hartford, I beg you will ask some invalid from Boston to call on me that I may furnish you. In that little work will be found some new views of cold, shower and warm bathing, in which the reasons for "scalding" some of my patients, and subjecting others to cold baths, are stated; with an attempt to establish a mode of correctly discriminating in all cases, both here, and by the bedside of the patient in the daily routine of the practitioner, the kind of bath to be used. I must beg pardon for adding that the faculty ought not to be satisfied till the powerful, revulsive impressions that can be effected by cold baths, by cold shower baths, passed slowly through the outlet of a watering pot and through very fine punctures; and, also, by hot baths of 110 and 112 degrees, which I have in many instances prescribed, are directed and graduated upon principles so clear as to leave the practitioner at ease in the application of a powerful adjunct to his general therapeutic agents. There will also be found details of the method of using these waters as an alternative and tonic, and three cases in illustration. But I must close these preliminary remarks, already too protracted, and will only add that I remain your obliged friend and servant,

MIL0 L. NORTH.

*Saratoga Springs, April 10th, 1840.*

**CASE I.** *Chronic Hepatitis combined with severe Pneumonic Disease.*—July 7, 1838, Mrs. R., a lady apparently about 40, consulted me for the following difficulties:—Deranged bilious and menstrual secretions; indigestion; pale face; loss of appetite and flesh; small, rapid and wiry pulse; fixed pain in right side of thorax, at times so severe as to require the lancet; constant cough; scanty expectoration; prolabia and tongue very pale, the latter containing deep sulci, smooth, shining, and without fur at all times.

I permitted her to commence at once the use of the Congress water in the morning as a cathartic, hoping to qualify its bracing tendency by 3 i. antimonial wine, taken each night at bed-time. This did not prevent an aggravation of her cough, pain of side and other inflammatory symptoms. The pain and shortness of breath became so severe that on the 9th July I had to resort to a small bleeding, to suspend the water, give 4 grs. pulv. antimonialis every four hours, and order frictions over the chest with the oil of croton. July 10. Pain of side slightly relieved; pulse softer and slower. Continue pulv. ant. and antimonial wine; take 3ss. sulphate magnesia every morning; also  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. op. and 1 gr. calomel every 8 hours; continue the frictions. 11th. Pain of chest much relieved. Cont. medicines. 12th. Improving. Continue medicines, and take 4 tumblers Congress water every morning. In a few days Mrs. R. was able to take the waters freely, with a diminished use of the medi-

cines, and she soon suspended the medicines altogether. She left us after three or four weeks' residence here, with health and spirits very much improved, which state continued through the following winter. The next summer (1839) she spent several weeks here in tolerable health and in high spirits, taking the Congress freely and favorably.

The above case is very similar to many instances recorded in my journal, in which the use of the mineral waters, from being at first decidedly detrimental, was rendered not only tolerable, but beneficial and agreeable by temporary adaptation of qualifying medicines.

**CASE II. Hemiplegia.**—July 11, 1838. Mr. U., of L., Mass.; aged about 50. Paralytic condition of right arm and leg for one year and a half. They have both a sensation of great heat constantly. This symptom is exceedingly troublesome. The sense of heat in the arm is much relieved when the hand is elevated, and both limbs are easier when the patient is horizontal. These limbs possess no natural feeling: they are morbidly sensitive and very tender on pressure. No increase of absolute caloric; pulse hard and wiry, equable and slow. Is florid; weighs 180 lbs., formerly 240 lbs. No disorder of digestive organs, or of any organs except brain, nerves and sanguiferous system.

**Treatment.**—Bleed 16 oz. from palsied arm. The blood buffy. Take every morning  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Epsom salts and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tumbler Congress water. July 14. Feels lighter and every way better. Continue Epsom salts; take three tumblers of Congress, mornings; frictions to the arm with liniment of ammonia. 18th. Bled 14 oz.; continue. 27th. Has been absent on a short excursion. Is much improved. Mr. U. staid two or three weeks more, constantly improving under the use of the Congress water and the medicines above mentioned.

**CASE III. Bilious Disorder.**—July 27, 1838. Mr. D., from one of the cities of Connecticut; age, say 36. Has constant pain in the region of the liver. Worse in the afternoon and evening. Paroxysms resemble those of gall-stones. Urine, saffron colored. Countenance sallow. Acid stomach. Tongue furred. Rapidly losing flesh and strength. Mind feeble and confused.

**Treatment.**—Four tumblers of Congress and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Epsom salts every morning; 3 i. ant. wine, nights, at bed-time; also  $\frac{3}{4}$  gr. opium and 1 gr. calomel night and morning; hot bath, daily, for 30 minutes at 110 degrees, as an antispasmodic and revulsive. He amended at once, and so rapidly that in a week or ten days he left here with all his difficulties removed. I saw Mr. D., Feb. 1840. Had enjoyed uniform health. I ought to have said, too, I saw him here last summer (1839) dancing attendance at the dipping-room of the Congress Spring—not as an invalid—but, probably, in honor of the fountain at whose streams he had formerly received such signal relief, and also to lay up a stock of health for the ensuing year.

**CASE IV. Long-continued Costiveness.**—July 30, 1838. Miss B., say 35, from Massachusetts. Pulse hard and 100; amenorrhœa; flatulence and indigestion; very nervous and apprehensive; eyes wild; obstinately costive.

**Treatment.**—R. Ext. hyosciami,  $\mathfrak{Dij}$ .; carb. ammoniæ,  $\mathfrak{Dij}$ .; cam-

phoræ, ʒi.; mucilag. acaciæ, q. s. Misce. Ft. pilulæ 20. One pill to be taken four times daily; also ʒi. ant. wine at bed-time; a thorough dose of Epsom salts and senna every morning. After continuing this course about 6 days, during which the bowels were thoroughly evacuated, the pulse softer and slower, the nerves quieted, and all her sufferings mitigated, she re-commenced the use of the Congress water, which she thought had injured her when taken without medicines, previously to consulting me. She rapidly convalesced, and soon returned home, enjoying a comfortable degree of health. She was here again last summer, but on an excursion of pleasure with other friends.

**CASE V. *Dyspepsia, with weakness of Spine and pain of Shoulders.***—Mr. G. I., of L., Vt., say 26, has been long afflicted with such pain and weakness of spine and upper extremities as to prevent his laboring at all. He is also troubled with indigestion. No tenderness of spine on pressure; countenance, flesh, tongue and pulse, normal. He spent three weeks here in 1838, and 8½ weeks in 1839, ending August 6th. He tried various fountains, but finally preferred the Congress. He took baths, but used few medicines. His amendment the first summer was scarcely perceptible. But as he had lost all hope of every other remedy, he resolved to make a thorough trial in the season of 1839. This firm resolve proved of great importance to him, for he perceived very little improvement till the end of five weeks. From this time, however, using the Congress water simply as a purgative, he convalesced with quite as much rapidity as ordinary invalids, and he left us nearly well.

The case of Mr. I. proves not only the medicinal power of the water, but the sound discretion of the patient, who took it for granted that long-continued and deep-seated disease required time as well as efficient remedies for its removal.

**CASE VI. *Salt Rheum. Psoriasis Diffusa.***—June 28, 1839. Mrs. T. M., say 35, from Connecticut. Has been troubled with the disease from childhood. One and a half year since, it attacked the face for the first time, and it has since occupied the face and hands constantly. Three weeks ago her face was very much swollen. The hands often swell. Her flesh as usual. General health miserable.

**Treatment.**—One blue pill at night; ʒ ss. vin. antimonii before meals, and ʒi. at bed-time. Seven tumblers Congress in the morning. Bath at 90 degrees, every 2d day, of the mineral water. July 1st. The eruption has already diminished. The wine produces no disturbance of stomach. Thorough catharsis and without irritation. 5th. Doing very well. After spending a few weeks in this course she left here for home, with the eruption scarcely perceptible on the face, hands or body, and her general health, spirits and appetite never better.

**Note.**—I have several cases on record which were as speedily and thoroughly benefited as Mrs. M.'s, by the combined operation of Congress water, bathing and medicines. I ought to add, too, that there were several invalids of this class under my direction who experienced little benefit from the springs. It was my unhappiness to have quite a number of instances under my care last season of that intractable disease

—*acne punctata*, or pustular eruption on the face. The pustules often suppurated, discharging pus and blood. In some, the whole surface of the face, except where the pustules were located, was of a fiery-red color. In every instance, the affection of the face appeared to be the sequel of chronic disease seated elsewhere; or else the outlet or point of revulsion of some visceral disease, as, for instance, that of the liver, the morbid action often alternating from one point to the other, and vice versa; and sometimes apparently equally divided between the two. To some of these cases I administered the most powerful and approved remedies, in conjunction with Congress water and bathing; such as bleeding, emetics, large doses of calomel, blue pills, compound powder of rhubarb, iodine, antimonials; and, externally, blisters to the face, various lotions and solution of nitrate of silver. In two or three instances the amendment was so decided as to promise a cure, could a reasonable time be allowed. Yet the whole results indicate a want of power in the waters to cure a genuine case of acne without the aid of medicines.

CASE VII. *Nurses' Sore Mouth*.—July 3, 1839. Mrs. S., the wife of a clergyman, came to the Springs two weeks since from Vermont, laboring under this disease. The mouth, fauces and throat were covered with the eruption, the digestive function nearly null, with much weakness of the spinal column; great loss of flesh and strength; countenance sallow. In the winter she was compelled to wean the child. Yet nothing seemed of any benefit to her till she began to take of the Congress water in bottles at home. This proved exceedingly grateful to the hot membranes of the throat, fauces and stomach, and was of just sufficient power to keep the disease at bay. Since her residence here her husband carries her daily to the Springs, where she takes it from nature's own laboratory, lively and sparkling, and in large quantities. Her difficulties appear to be wholly gone, and she is soon to leave for home. She has taken no medicine, confining her potations principally to the Congress fountain. She has taken a few draughts from the chalybeate springs. This instance shows not only the power of the medicine, but its superior efficacy when taken freely and at the fountain head.

Mrs. S. related another instance of this disease occurring in the same town, in the wife of a distinguished dentist. Her mouth became so full of canker and ulcers that she was obliged to wean the child immediately. All remedies failed till she commenced the use of Congress water, in bottles, which speedily arrested the disease and produced decided amelioration. She used the remedy all winter. A Mrs. H., in that town, has also been greatly benefited by the same remedy. She thinks she should be wholly cured if she could come to the Springs.

My apology for saying so much on this complaint is its occasional obstinacy, and the desire to spread before the medical public another promising remedy when other expedients fail.

[To be continued.]

## VELPEAU'S TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE BREAST.\*

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

"THE suction of the infant is the determining cause of *excoriation*, cracks or fissures of and around the nipple. They tend rapidly to resolution on removal of, or protection from, the cause. The chief protection or remedy is a well-applied artificial nipple.

In sub-mammary, or deep-seated inflammation of the breast, its volume is sometimes tripled in 48 hours. Resolution of the sub-cutaneous or deep-seated inflammation, after 5 or 6 days' continuance, seems nearly impossible.

Tumefaction of the breast in the last months of pregnancy, and in nurses, is occasioned by milk retained in the ducts, thickened and concreted, perhaps under exposure of the breast to cold, or long interval from nursing: any consequent inflammation is aggravated by application of liniments.

If a milk-duct becomes obstructed or obliterated, the milk behind the obstacle may distend the duct, transform it into a cyst, the opening of which may become *fistulous*. If during lactation, a duct be divided, the wound may, by continual passage of milk, become a *fistula*, which would soon close under cessation of lactation. Fistula of the breast does not seem to need all the attention and care which some surgeons have for a numbers of years given to it.

In glandular *hypertrophy* of the breast, calomel, antimony, purgatives, "emmenagogues," topical astringents or "resolutives," do not appear to have produced any satisfactory result. These divers remedies are not without danger to the system.—Iodine, given so as to transfuse all the organs,† would be the most powerful remedy.

This hypertrophy is little known in France. I have seen it twice. One of the women, æt. 18, had the gland as large as an adult head, the other was half as large. She seemed in perfect health. In the other, æt. 40, mother of several children, the glands acquired thrice their natural size in 20 months; general corpulence had not augmented. The women suffered not at all.

Fatty hypertrophy is very rare. The rest of the body emaciates, the fatty cells of the breast seeming to receive the materials which are usually distributed through the body.

There is a cancer, very common, a *ligneous* transformation of the breast, principally of the skin. It is almost useless to treat it surgically, as it is reproduced with extreme obstinacy.

*Ramified* scirrhus is most difficult of entire removal, and therefore most likely to be reproduced.

In a case of *glandular* scirrhus every part of the tumor was removed with the integuments, the wound of the operation was reduced 4-5, everything seemed to promise speedy cure, when the disease appeared

\* Treatise on Diseases of the Breast, by M. Velpeau, Surg. of the Hospital of Charity, Prof. of the Fac. of Med. of Paris, &c. Translated by S. Parkman, M.D., &c., of Boston, for Dunglison's Amer. Med. Library, Philadelphia.

† How is the system affected by an agent which transfuses itself into all the organs while it is hoped to be repressing undue growth of the breast? Is this general effect, if bad, less than the trouble which it is hoped to repress?

in the other breast.—This species in persons advanced in life sometimes exists 15—20 years without compromising life.

I removed a tumor which seemed to occupy the *milk-tubes*. When cicatrization was 2-3 completed, ichor replaced suppuration towards the arm-pit, the glands of which began to tumefy. I seized with a hook and extirpated them. The wound cicatrized: an abscess appeared soon after in the arm-pit, was opened and disappeared; scirrhus masses appeared after some months and caused death in less than a year.

*Induration* of a part or of the whole of the gland, with deep-seated, dull and lancinating pain, the gland appearing knotted, left to itself often disappears. I have never seen it become scirrhus or encephaloid. It never requires ablation.

In *nodosities* or *granulations* around the gland and under border of pectoral muscle, touch is painful, the pain constant, usually sharp, lancinating, radiating in all directions; like neuralgia, in paroxysms. Women are so tormented by them they dare not move the arm or head; the least contact of dress torments.—This disorder seems connected with the state of the womb; it may continue several years, but ought not to give solicitude to the surgeon. In progress of age it seldom fails to disappear. I have never seen unpleasant transformation of it.

Sometimes there are only radiating pains with slight heat and numbness in the breast, or a tumor towards the arm-pit no larger than a nut, particularly towards the menstrual period. A corset contrived to keep the breasts inwards rather than towards arm-pit, is an essential part of cure. The disease need not excite alarm; an operation is almost never required.

Serous or *hydatid cysts* of the breast are very rare; they should be treated like hydrocele or a large abscess; extirpation should be proposed after failure. *Sero-sanguineous* cysts are entirely local, without pain or affection of health. Not unfrequently they are stationary several years, and then disappear spontaneously.

*Fibrinous* tumors may extend almost indefinitely without compromising life: they have only very slight tendency to degenerate.

*Butter-like, milky or cheesy* tumor.—Dec. 1837, a woman presented an indolent tumor of the breast, of the size of two fists, movable, without redness; it began 8 months before, after lactation. After complete extirpation, it did not delay its re-appearance. May, 1838, it is of the size of an infant's head.—Many tumors seem to originate in effusion of milk, blood, lymph and pus.

A blow or friction sometimes calls a person's attention to the existence of *scirrhus* of the breast. This tends extremely to re-production, or to occur simultaneously in some organs, forming a most unpleasant prognosis. We should not resort to caustics and the knife before being certain that the disease is confined to this gland. Extirpation offers more chance of cure in males than females.

Under the fungous, *medullary-encephaloid* tumor, the sufferer succumbs in a few months. In extirpating it, we fear its re-production with renewed intensity, with greater obstinacy, in a few weeks or months, around the cicatrix in the arm-pit or organs, as I have seen fifty times,



even in young, healthy, strong people. — — —, æt. 36, of moderate flesh, always in perfect health, had for 8 months an enlargement of the breast, of the size of the fist. I removed it with half an inch of healthy tissue surrounding it. In a month cure seemed complete. A fortnight later, like tumors began to accumulate so as to stifle her before 4 months. — From a lady's breast I extirpated a fungoid tumor, cutting deep into the healthy tissue. Hardly was the wound healed when small tumors appeared. Another surgeon operated again. She died 4 months after. — With the operation, I think a few women may be cured, if the disease appear absolutely local and removable totally without too much difficulty or loss of substance.

*Colloid* tumors are of consistence of jelly, as obstinate to cure as the two preceding, and as re-productive.

*Melanotic* tumors are nearly always accompanied with deep constitutional alteration; surgical means are almost always inefficacious.

Thus—nearly all the degenerations of the breast are malignant. We know nothing satisfactory upon their origin.

[*Boston, March 7th, 1840.*—Mr. H. æt. 23, had for 16 months a swelling under the right nipple; for three months past, sensibly enlarging and becoming more painful. The nipple double the size of the left, and darker. The tumor is hard, irregular, and in three lobulated, but not detached portions, and in its largest diameter 3 inches; slightly movable; the nipple and integument covering it may be freely moved over it; painful on pressure, so that he cannot wear his suspenders in the usual direction; occasionally, when not exposed to pressure, there is sharp pain in it. H. is of robust figure, good health, except stricture across the chest, aggravated by singing, to which he is much devoted, and at times a slight cough.

Cupping over the tumor to 3 iss. Mr. H. being faint, could obtain no more blood; vegetable and farinaceous diet; sulph. magnesia, 3i.

12th. Tumor less sensitive, not painful unless pressed.

15th. Cupping to 3iiss.

*April 3d.* Mr. H. has had, since March 27th, an attack of pneumonia of the right lung, with reference to which he has been bled freely, taken antimonials and antiphlogistic treatment. Tumor is a third its original size, bears considerable pressure without much pain; in coughing a pain darts from it towards the shoulder. Cupping over tumor to 8 iss.

20th. Tumor not perceptible, except that there is a fullness about the nipple. No pain from pressure.—J. H. D.]

That some tumors have disappeared under use of ext. of conium, iodine, arsenic, opium, I will not deny: it is doubtful if a scirrhus, encephaloid, colloid, melanotic has so disappeared. Under rigorous abstinence the growth of a tumor may have been checked; but on resumption of more substantial regimen, its development is not delayed.—Compression of cancerous tumors promotes their absorption into internal organs and reproduction in other parts. These means, affecting the general health, give to the disease greater power over the constitution. The suffering under zinc-paste and other escharotics is horrible for 24—



49 hours.—From operations under deteriorated health or secondary tumors in the arm-pit, everything is to be feared. (*See page 210.*)

[In recording reports of cases, it must be considered that the history is often incomplete. It is stated—after the operation “the wound healed favorably, he was well in 15 days.” Yet his family wrote some time after, “He has since undergone several operations, disease having appeared elsewhere; he has no hope of relief from his sufferings but in death.”—“From a healthy, good-looking man, *æt.* 52, a tumor of 30 years’ standing is removed. The bad symptoms disappeared and the patient is recovering.” Yet, he died 5 months after the operation from strangulation consequent to a series of hemorrhages from the uncitrized part, attended with cough and prostration of strength. “Removal of a tumor is performed; it will give great relief.” Yet death followed the operation in 15—20 days; the wound did not heal, &c. &c.]

In removing tumors of the breast, the patient should be on a bed or operation-table, properly furnished, not on a chair. If we hope for the least chance of success, the last atom of the disease must be extirpated.”

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#### CASE OF MOLLITIES OSSIUM.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—In answer to repeated calls made in your periodical respecting the singular, and instructive case of *Mollities Ossium* which occurred recently in Cornish, I will take it upon myself, as none of the physicians residing in a more immediate neighborhood seem to have answered the requests, to forward to you a brief sketch of what has come to my knowledge concerning it, from consulting directly the family friends and assisting in a post-mortem examination.

On the 30th of November last, I made a visit to Cornish (about 10 miles from this place), in hopes to see and converse with Miss Lucy Harrington, the subject of this notice, and gain from her what information I could respecting her case; but learned, just before arriving there, that she had died the day before. After inspecting the corpse and noting down the principal points in her history, a post-mortem examination was proposed and cheerfully acceded to by the family, which was accordingly made on the following day.

It may be proper to remark here, before giving the result of the examination, that Miss H., *æt.* 43 years, had naturally a good constitution and comparatively a perfect form. Stature some over five feet, at the maximum height. Lived on a promiscuous diet. Enjoyed her health as well as people in general up to January, 1838, except a cervical trouble (which was first noticed in May, 1837), and a “cancer on the breast” about that time, to which a vagabond “cancer doctor” applying a plaster, digested out a portion of it. Soon after this (Jan. 1838) she began to “grow out of shape,” as they expressed it, which continually increased till her death. During this period the bones in every part of the body, not excepting those of the jaw, face, skull, fingers, &c., were fractured repeatedly, causing extremely acute pain at

the time. The thigh bones were broken four or five times each; also the humeri, producing a loud, snapping noise, like the breaking of any bone. These occurred spontaneously, and were preceded by a kind of spasm of the threatened limb or part. Right clavicle was fractured in June, 1838, it being the first bone broken. Her body was so contracted by tortuosity of the limbs and absorption, that she measured, between extremes, but 31 inches, presenting a more melancholy spectacle of human deformity than can well be imagined.

On post-mortem dissection, the lungs were found strongly adherent to the right side (probably in consequence of an inflammation of that organ about a year previous), and a portion of them hepatized. Heart nearly natural—auricles perhaps a little enlarged. Stomach presented some signs of previous inflammation, the mucous membrane being specked with red, and somewhat arborescent in its appearance. Bladder and spleen proper. Each kidney contained gravel in its pelvis, but showed no mark of organic disease. In fine, the general apparent condition of all the viscera did not depart much from that of nature. The ribs were extremely fragile and soft, in common with the other bones, and portions of them absorbed entirely away, so as to leave them in two or three separate pieces attached only by membrane. Some of the finger bones were in the same condition, and all shorter than natural, and disproportionate to each other. The little one of the left hand was almost entirely obliterated. The humerus and femur were amputated, and without the assistance of any other instrument than the scalpel. To be sure, the bones were not without some granular deposit, but so destitute of a regular organization that a knife could easily sever them in almost any part of the body.

It would seem, from some circumstances in this case, that a preternatural absorption of the limy particles of bone was more the cause of this disease than a deficiency in the secretion of them, as has been supposed by some writers.

Miss H. took no medicine during her confinement, except morphine to quiet severe pain and distress. I must not forget to mention a kind of glutinous exudation from the skin with which she was covered at times, leaving, on becoming dry, a thin, whitish, earthy-looking incrustation, easily removed by rubbing. Whether this had any connection or direct intimacy with the disappearance of the earthy matter from the bones, or was a deposit entirely distinct from it, remains yet to be decided. Whether the "cancer on the breast" had any influence or not, is also a question. Everything, in fact, relating to this rare disease, except its dreadfully deforming ravages, is of an obscure nature. Fortunately it is a rare one.

Thus have I incoherently thrown together this hasty and imperfect sketch, which you can dispose of as you think fit.

Claremont, N. H., April 22, 1840.

Respectfully yours,

ALBERT BARTLETT.

## ON THE GASTRIC JUICE.

(Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.)

It is known that the vitality of some vegetables and some animals is not destroyed by frost. I have proved, by experiments, that a similar law exists in regard to the human gastric juice; and for the first time, in the annals of science, as I believe. It may gratify curiosity, if it be not otherwise useful, to have the fact recorded. This juice is known to be a vital secretion, done by the stomach, instead of a chemical retort. It must, therefore, be more physiological, to regard it as a vital, rather than a chemical, menstruum. Neither do we regard the menstrual secretion as chemical.

In illustration, two drachms of gastric juice were given to me by the well-known Dr. Beaumont, when he was in New London, as taken by his tube from the stomach of ALEXIS ST. MARTIN, the once wounded and now mutilated Canadian. This has now been kept in a small phial six years, winter and summer, in a room without fire. I have seen it frozen and thawed, I know not how many times. It is now as clear, sweet and fresh as it was when it first came into my possession. It doubtless could be made to digest animal and vegetable food. It does not freeze so readily as water. It freezes at 10 or 12 degrees below the freezing point of the common thermometer. Would any other human juice resist the destructive action of frost to such a degree? The menstrual secretion has been kept, in a phial, in good condition for many years; yet whether frozen or not, is not told.

Finally, *scientific secrets* have ceased to be fashionable; unless some, in anatomy and physiology, as that of the brain, be an exception. We are now encouraged, by law, to speak, write and publish on all subjects whatever. This last act must, however, often be done at one's own expense, if done at all, for readers often neglect to pay for what may be published; and likewise for other goods or stationary. The Pilgrim's Progress in Phrenology, and other physiological and medical books, as those of Bichat, cannot be sold, save to a few. Correct intention may be shown by the publication of a book, if it be not much sold. Its views may be promulgated by others. ELISHA NORTH, M.D.

New London, Ct., April, 1840.

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BOSTON, MAY 6, 1840.

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## MEDICAL EDUCATION.

A PAMPHLET, re-printed from the Eclectic Journal of Medicine for April, 1840, has astonished us by its developments. The title-page reads thus: "An Essay on the means of improving Medical Education, and elevating Medical Character. By Andrew Boardman, M.D. Presented to the Faculty of Geneva College, January, 1840." The essay, as discoverable

in the sequel, in consequence of certain views maintained in it, was rejected. The introduction is a master-piece exposition of wilful misrepresentations on the part of those most interested in the Geneva school. In probing the College to show its non-fulfilment of promises, Dr. Boardman has given all those who deserve it, broadside upon broadside that must be felt to be severely just.

"I attended," says Dr. B., "the lectures of Geneva College during the session of 1839-40, and graduated at the end of the term. I here introduce a comparison between the promises held out in the college circular as inducements to medical students, and the mode in which those promises were fulfilled.

"PROMISE OF THE CIRCULAR.—That the course on Chemistry should be delivered by a doctor of medicine.

"Fulfilment.—The Chemical course was delivered by a doctor of divinity, who acknowledged, in my hearing, that he had often to lecture from notes which he had not looked at for five or six years before bringing them into the lecture room.

"PROMISE.—That a course of lectures on Medical Jurisprudence should be delivered.

"Fulfilment.—We were not favored with a single lecture on the subject.

"PROMISE.—That there should be a course of lectures on Physiology.

"Fulfilment.—No such course was delivered.

"PROMISE.—That the Anatomical class should have a full supply of subjects for dissection.

"Fulfilment.—Not a single subject was provided for dissection during the whole session, though students deposited money for them at the rate of \$40 a subject at the commencement of the term. Nor was there more than a single subject, and that a very poor one, used for demonstration during the entire anatomical course.

"PROMISE.—That the students, attending Geneva College, should have the great advantage of clinical instruction at the Western Hospital, an institution connected with the medical school.

"Fulfilment.—The Western Hospital consisted of the second floor of an old building labelled in large letters, '*Geneva Shoe-store*,' and during the whole session it contained not one medical patient, and only one surgical patient. I was house-surgeon, and performed my daily rounds for a considerable time, by going from one side of the bed of a quiet old negress to the other. Attracted by the reputation of the surgical professor, however, many patients came in from the surrounding country, on whom operations were performed before the class.

"PROMISE OF THE ANATOMICAL PROFESSOR.—That a special diploma should be presented to the best practical anatomist of the graduating class.

"Fulfilment.—Such diploma, with the heading '*palmarum qui meruit ferat*,' was made out in my favor; but no means of acquiring practical skill having been afforded, and no tests of practical skill having been applied, I declined the proffered honor."

Although not wishing to copy the dissertation, since it appears in a cotemporary periodical, yet we would urge it upon the attention of the profession as particularly worthy of an attentive perusal. If Dr. Boardman has too highly colored things, it remains for the faculty to set the matter right, as it generally happens that there are two sides to a story. All the gold (of the medal, also promised in the Circular) any one obtained,

might have been put in one's eye, with impunity, says report. This subject will receive further attention.

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*Bold Surgical Operation.*—About a year since, a seaman belonging to a barque on an outward-bound voyage from Boston, had the misfortune to fall about forty feet, from aloft to the deck. A terrible compound fracture of the thigh was the consequence. The shaft of the os femoris is represented to have protruded through the wound five or six inches. Though the captain had had no experience whatever in surgery, he saw at once that an immediate effort to restore the bone to its bed within the muscles, should be made, and to accomplish the business he proceeded in the following manner :

The sailor was *stayed*, nautically speaking, bolt upright against the mainmast. A tackle and pulley was next rigged to the foot, to which the men tugged away, as they would have hove short at an anchor. However, with the best endeavors, with all the power that could be thus applied, the splintered extremity of the bone proved intolerably refractory, and refused to go back again by full two inches, and, in spite of blocks, still stuck out of the wound. Perceiving that a desperate case required desperate means, a maxim familiar to surgeons, the captain next took the best saw he could muster on board, and amputated the portion of bone he could not reduce within the rent, which was a block about two inches in length. Having adjusted the parts and secured them with splints, &c., the patient was made tolerably comfortable till the vessel reached New Orleans. He remained a considerable time in the hospital at that place, and finally, within a few weeks, returned again to Boston. Owing to some splinters, probably, which are a source of irritation, a fistulous discharge has been kept up for several months.

But one part of the story is rather amusing, as related by an old tar, which should not be omitted. Before this severe accident occurred, the other leg, from some cause not explained to us, was too short, by about two inches. As things have now terminated, Jack will hereafter look the better for the operation. Formerly, he went like a ship in a gale, with the starboard quarter, at every other step, close to the ground. In a word, he was obliged to limp ; but in consequence of being razed, or cut down shorter, as ship carpenters serve old men-of-war which are rotten in their upper works, he will hereafter sail on an even keel.

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*Syrup of Poppies.*—Dr. Corbett, of the Shaker Society at Canterbury, N. H., has made a mucilaginous preparation from the poppy head, which meets with a very kind reception from the profession. Its use in obstinate coughs is decidedly good, without affecting the system like most of the preparations of opium. Not yet having had sufficient opportunity for testing its value, we rely upon the testimony of those who could have no motive for misrepresentation.

Another equally deserving medicinal compound, called the *concentrated syrup of sarsaparilla*, is also prepared by our philanthropic friend, expressly for the cure of cutaneous diseases. Were there any secret in the manufacture of either of these articles, or a single reason for supposing that the idea of driving a profitable trade in nostrums, were entertained, we should be the last person in the world to give them notoriety. In the

frankest manner possible, the process of making them was circumstantially described to us, and the evidence of scientific practitioners adduced to corroborate the statements of Dr. Corbett. In justice, therefore, to him, we should be glad to have our professional friends prescribe them with a view of ascertaining whether others have been deceived or not. Of all things, panaceas are to be avoided: no specific will meet with countenance at our hands. If new and economical modes of extracting the medicinal properties of plants are discovered, and freely offered to the community, we feel bound to ascertain, as far as practicable, if they are entitled to confidence.

*White Sulphur Springs of Virginia.*—J. J. Moorman, M.D., resident physician at this celebrated watering place, has prepared a neat and convenient little pamphlet, which is called—“*A Directory for the use of the White Sulphur Waters, with practical Remarks on their Properties and applicability to particular Diseases.*” A copy has been politely forwarded to us, for which the author will please accept our thanks.

No one pretends to question the medicinal value of these waters in a variety of diseases. We frankly declare ourselves, however, to be disbelievers in the curative energies of any mineral water, to the extent represented by those who are interested in them as property. When commenting upon Dr. Gallup's notes upon the Clarendon Spring, we could not resist saying, if we spoke candidly, that the water effected too much. So it is, we apprehend, with the White Sulphur fountains—too much is promised. There must be some apology for travelling, annually, and as a general rule, the further invalids go, the better. Those waters are always the best and the most highly appreciated, which cost the individual the greatest labor and expense to reach. If the Saratoga fountains could be removed two hundred miles beyond the Sulphur Springs, it is quite certain that no others would compare with them. *Far fetched and dear bought* applies especially to mineral waters. Where is our young friend Dr. Salisbury? It will not do to lose sight of our own healing pools of New England.

Dr. Moorman writes, however, like a scientific man, who is intent upon doing good and doing well for the proprietors—and we sincerely hope he may succeed in both.

*Cancer (in continuation of remarks on page 204).*—A simple tumor, or disease of mere irritation from near or remote sympathy, is often mistaken for formidable cancer!—CHARLES BELL.

The almost certain recurrence or coexistence of disease in remote parts of the body, particularly in some vital organ, which so constantly happens in fungoid affections and carcinoma, after the local complaint seemed completely removed, has induced many practitioners to decline operation altogether. My experience and extensive opportunities of witnessing others' practice, convince me such decision is best.—HENRY EARLE.

When the surgeon has removed external cancer, the internal disease frequently begins to manifest itself in the breast, liver, kidneys, lymphatic glands, bones, &c.—MARSHALL HALL.

See also page 278 of last volume of this Journal.

*New London Medical Society.*—At the annual meeting of the New London County Med. Society, held in Norwich, Ct. April 9th, 1840, Avery



Downer, M.D., of Preston, was elected *Chairman*, and Rufus W. Matthewson, M.D., of Norwich, *Clark*, for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were elected Fellows, to represent this County in the annual convention of the Connecticut Medical Society, to be holden at New Haven on Wednesday, the 13th inst.:—Joseph Comstock, M.D., of *Lebanon*; Lucius Tyler, M.D., of *Griswold*; Nathaniel S. Perkins, M.D., of *New London*; Joseph Durfey, M.D., of *Groton*; and Avery Downer, M.D., of *Preston*.

*On the Prevention of Tubercles.*—In a letter addressed to the Royal Academy of Medicine, M. Coster announces that, from certain experiments which he has made, he hopes to prove,

1. That it is possible, even in the face of predisposing causes, to prevent the development of the tubercular diathesis.

2. That even where the formation of tubercle has commenced, their progress may, in a great number of cases, be arrested.

The following are a few of the experiments upon which M. Coster has built up his hopes:—

Two years ago he placed a number of dogs, rabbits, &c., in the circumstances most favorable to the development of the scrofulous diathesis. Thus, many of the unfortunate animals were shut up in dungeons, without light, incapable of moving, and exposed to a moist cold by means of wet sponges which were hung up in the cages. Some of the animals placed in these conditions, were fed on their ordinary diet; others were fed with *ferruginous* bread, containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of carbonate of iron to the pound. All the former became ill, the greater part tuberculous, but not one of those fed on the bread containing iron presented a trace of tubercles.—*Bul. de l'Acad.*

*Albany Medical College.*—At a meeting of the Trustees of this institution, held on the first day of April, the department of *Materia Medica* and *Pharmacy* was changed to *Materia Medica* and *Natural History*, and the department of *Chemistry* and *Natural History* was changed to *Chemistry* and *Pharmacy*. Professor D. M. McLachlan was elected Professor of *Obstetrics* and *Diseases of Women and Children*, in place of Professor Bedford, resigned. Professor E. Emmons was elected Professor of *Materia Medica* and *Natural History*, in place of Professor McLachlan; and Lewis C. Beck, M.D., of *Rutger's College*, was elected Professor of *Chemistry* and *Pharmacy*, in place of Professor E. Emmons.

A bill now before the Legislature provides for a small annual appropriation from the fund of the State, which it is believed will give the College advantages which, together with those already in its possession, cannot fail to place it among the first and most prosperous of the land.

**DIED.**—At Northampton, Ms., Dr. Elisha Mather, 48.—At Rindge, N. H., Dr. Tho. Jewett, of a scirrhus stomach.—At Paris, Jan. 23, Baron Richerand, 61. His fame, as a physiologist, is almost universally extended over the globe.—At Göttingen, Jan. 22, Prof. Blumenbach, 83, equally celebrated as a medical philosopher and instructor.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending May 2, 29.—Males, 17—females, 12. Stillborn, 2.

Of consumption, 6—marasmus, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—small-pox, 2—debility, 1—lock jaw, 1—erysipelas, 1—palsy, 1—infantile, 1—decline, 1—intemperance, 1—land scurvy, 1—delirium tremens, 1—lung fever, 2—affection of the heart, 1—casualty, 1—dropsy on the chest, 1.



## REGISTER OF THE WEATHER.

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Ms. Lat. 42° 15' 49". Elevation 483 ft.

1890. April.	THERM.			BAROMETER.			Wind, 2, P.M.	Weather, 2, P.M.	Remarks.
	5 a.m.	10 a.m.	5 p.m.	5 a.m.	10 a.m.	5 p.m.			
1 Wed.	30.34	33.38	29.37	29.35	29.34	SE	Snow	Snow squalls. Crocus in bloom.	
2 Thur.	32.37	36.38	29.35	29.50	29.51	NW	Fair	Ground covered with snow; high wind.	
3 Frid.	30.54	50.39	29.52	29.35	29.27	SW	Fair	Pleasant day. Strong south wind.	
4 Satur.	49.46	48.48	28.87	28.93	29.04	NW	Fair	Willow in blossom. Aurora borealis.	
5 Sun.	35.46	43.43	29.31	29.27	29.31	NW	Fair	High wind. Frogs peep.	
6 Mon.	30.45	41.39	29.48	29.46	29.48	NW	Fair	High wind. Severe frost.	
7 Tues.	29.40	38.39	29.55	29.58	29.59	NW	Fair	High wind.	
8 Wed.	25.42	42.43	29.74	29.73	29.70	NW	Fair	Sun dog.	
9 Thur.	29.49	40.40	29.63	29.86	29.82	S	Fair	Pleasant day.	
10 Frid.	39.62	56.59	29.71	29.66	29.63	S	Fair	Windy, dry and dusty. Liverwort in bloom.	
11 Satur.	49.65	60.60	29.67	29.68	29.65	S	Fair	Buffalo bush in blossom. Rain in night.	
12 Sun.	54.58	58.58	29.50	29.38	29.22	SE	Rain	Severe storm of rain.	
13 Mon.	41.50	48.48	29.30	29.55	29.64	NW	Fair	High wind. Cowslip in blossom.	
14 Tues.	38.55	47.47	29.75	29.66	29.60	SE	Fair	White frost. Rain in the night.	
15 Wed.	41.61	57.57	29.48	29.48	29.43	S	Fair	Aurora borealis.	
16 Thur.	44.66	56.56	29.48	29.50	29.46	S	Fair	Dixie or Leather wood in blossom.	
17 Frid.	44.65	56.56	29.60	29.45	29.44	SW	Fair	High wind.	
18 Satur.	54.73	64.64	29.38	29.20	29.26	SW	Fair	High wind. Dry and dusty.	
19 Sun.	50.54	51.51	29.43	29.55	29.62	N	Fair	Bloodroot and Red Maple in blossom.	
20 Mon.	54.56	49.49	29.64	29.54	29.54	SW	Fair	High wind. Fever bush in blossom.	
21 Tues.	53.54	45.45	29.64	29.80	29.76	SW	Fair	Calm and pleasant. Trailing arbutus in bloom.	
22 Wed.	54.51	51.51	29.72	29.53	29.40	SE	Cloudy	Severe storm of rain. Trillium in blossom.	
23 Thur.	54.78	70.70	29.18	29.19	29.25	SW	Fair	Dandelion and apricot in blossom.	
24 Frid.	62.74	69.69	29.30	29.40	29.45	NW	Fair	Potentilla simplex and Wind flower in bloom.	
25 Satur.	50.75	68.68	29.56	29.53	29.48	N	Fair	Miscouli currant, shade bush, in bloom. Thun.	
26 Sun.	60.76	67.67	29.40	29.24	29.16	S	Fair	Cherry trees in bloom. [and light. in night.	
27 Mon.	50.49	48.48	29.04	29.58	29.76	W	Fair	High wind.	
28 Tues.	33.46	44.44	29.36	30.00	29.99	SE	Fair		
29 Wed.	42.51	46.46	29.80	29.60	29.43	NE	Rain	Wild Honeysuckle in blossom.	
30 Thur.	47.65	59.59	29.06	29.14	29.19	NW	Fair	High wind.	

SEVERAL THOUSAND COPIES OF DESLANDES' TREATISE ON THE DISEASES PRODUCED BY EXCESSES, have been sold the past year. Price 50 cents. For sale by OTIS, BROADERS & CO., No. 120 Washington street (up stairs).

Extract from the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.—"If it were once freely circulated, the tendency would be beneficial, because, like an alarm gun, it would give warning in season to arrest a threatening danger."

Extract of a letter from Dr. Woodward, Superintendent of the *Insane Hospital at Worcester*.—"That it is a most frightful source of ill health and fatal disease with the young, I have no doubt; I hope, therefore, it will go into extensive circulation."

Extract of a letter from Dr. J. W. Francis, *New York*.—"The volume as now published will prove eminently useful, and deserves the consideration of all to whom is committed the responsible trust of moral and physical education."

Extract of a letter from Dr. Doane, *New York*.—"The subject is extremely important, and one too much overlooked by our profession generally, and the evils of the vice are not appreciated by our community."

Extract of a letter from Dr. Winslow Lewis, Jr., *Boston*.—"To none can the work do harm, and to many it may give rise to that deep self-trust which will forever free them from this fatal vice."

For sale in Lowell, by E. A. Rice & Co. In Nashua, by Buffum & Gill. In Salem, by H. Whipple. April 15-3t

## VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which no letter will be taken from the post office. June 19

## SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

TEN subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

JOHN C. WARREN,  
JOHN B. B. JACKSON,  
ROBERT W. HOOPER,  
J. MASON WARREN.

Oct. 9-1f

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